

Preface

Radiology and medical imaging save lives and are indispensable in patient-centered medicine. The stakeholders from developed and developing countries face many similar challenges, which could potentially jeopardize radiation safety and radiological quality. Poor access to and inappropriate use of procedures are two contrasting issues. When radiation is used in medicine, the aim is to maximize benefits and minimize risks. Inappropriate use leads to unnecessary radiation exposure and increased cost.

Good teamwork and an integrated framework underpin improvement actions for practitioners, radiological facilities and healthcare systems. A framework consisting of safety and quality measures, synergistic implementation strategies, and performance enhancements supports the development and implementation of improvement actions and enables the identification of gaps and value-adding opportunities. Each stakeholder plays a unique and complementary role. For example, in a system-based action, individual experts prepare recommendations and guidance tools, and international agencies and professional organizations advocate their adoption by national regulatory authorities and use by practitioners. The key to maximize resources and secure success is by completing the project loop. Under a globalized environment, an inclusive engagement platform promotes stakeholder collaboration, improves awareness, facilitates cross-fertilization, minimizes duplication, and enables collective resources mobilization.

Radiological Safety and Quality – Paradigms in Leadership and Innovation is a multi-disciplinary and inter-sectorial collaboration by an international team of experts and leaders from academic institutions, radiology facilities, professional organizations, regulatory authorities, UN, and international agencies. It is a privilege for us to serve as co-editors and we thank the authors for their expert and valuable contributions. We very much appreciate the foreword messages offered by leaders from international professional organizations and agencies, by reiterating our common goal and demonstrating a joint commitment to improve radiological safety and quality through collaboration.

Established principles and new concepts, challenges, and opportunities, and leadership and innovation examples are discussed to raise awareness, share experience, and facilitate facility-based or system-wide improvements in quality care, radiation safety, and appropriate use of radiology. Such collective efforts will improve daily practice, i.e. by *doing the right procedure* by justification and *doing the procedure right* by optimization of radiological protection and error minimization.

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